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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation
First session
Geneva, 18 January 1993

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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II. ANNOTATION TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board states that: "At the commencement of the first meeting of each regular session, the Committee shall elect a Chairman, five Vice Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee. In electing the officers, due account shall be taken of the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution". Moreover, rule 19 indicates that "Without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution as laid down in rule 18, the Bureau of the Committee shall consist of seven members, including four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX) as amemded".

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I above follows the format agreed to by the consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 17 July 1992. As provided for in the UNCTAD calendar of meetings, the Standing Committee will have available five working days from 18 to 22 January 1993. Throughout the session, interpretation facilities will be available for up to two simultaneous meetings in the mornings and afternoons. At the first meeting, on 18 January 1993, an opening statement will be made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative. The rest of the first session of the Standing Committee, as agreed in the consultations of the Secretary-General, will be primarily devoted to item 3 of the agenda.

Item 3: Establishment of the work programme of the Standing Committee

With a view to assisting the Standing Committee in establishing its work programme, the secretariat has prepared two documents: an issues note (TD/B/CN.2/2) and a background note (TD/B/CN.2/3). The issues note reviews all major and new issues in the field of poverty alleviation and offers, in chapter III, suggestions for elements for deliberation by the Committee as well as for the organization and time-table of its work. The background note is a more in-depth presentation of elements of the terms of reference of the Standing Committee. It identifies possible issues and policies and raises questions that the Committee may wish to examine further and include as a main focus in its future work programme.

Item 4: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Standing Committee

It is recalled that in paragraph 71 of the Cartagena Commitment, it was agreed the "The standing committees should be geared to assist the Board in the effective discharge of its functions. The work and agendas of the standing

committees should be organized in such a way as to attract the attendance of senior policy officials in the respective sectors". Moreover, paragraph 75 states that "The committees will meet as often as determined by the Board, and their meetings will be of five days' duration or less". Attention should be paid to the suggested organization and time-table of the work programme of the Committee contained in chapter III of the issues note (TD/B/CN.2/2). A draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Standing Committee will be submitted for consideration in the light of the discussions and decisions by the Committee.

Item 5: Other business

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Standing Committee will be considered by the Trade and Development Board at the second part of its thirty-ninth session, scheduled to be held from 15 to 26 March 1993.